THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix-179, Annexure No. 1]

(b) The details of wells constructed in Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe areas is not monitored at Central level.

Power projects facing shortage of infrastructure facilities and fuel

99. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power projects are facing shortage of infrastructure facilities and fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present position of the proposed power projects by foreign companies; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to provide adequate transport & Port facilities to make MNC plans viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Structuring of power projects based on certain types of fuels, especially liquid hydrocarbons and gas has sometimes posed problems, due to constraints in their indigenous availability.

(c) As on date, 50 proposals involving foreign investment on the MoU/LoI etc. route costing more than Rs. 100 crores and on the competitive bidding route costing more than Rs. 1000 crores, have been received for setting up of power projects in the private sector. As per the information available in the Ministry of Power, 16 of these project proposals have receivd techno-economic clearance of CEA, 21 have been cleared from the foreign investment angle and 3 projects have received the counter guarantee of the Government of India.

(d) Government of India is monitoring fuel supply and transport arrangements for all the power projects including those put up by MNCs to ensure that the projects would get adequate transport and port facilities wherever necessary.

Indian Assistance for streamlining the Chinese Civil Services

100. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of China have sought assistance of the Indian Government in revamping their Civil Services set up;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to provide necessary inputs and training to Chinese personnel to streamline their civil services network;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by India and China in February, 1992. It seeks to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of Civil Services, Personnel Management and Public Administration between the two countries. The following broad forms of cooperation are envisaged in the MOU:—

(a) Exchange of professional study tours.

(b) Exchange of experts for delivering lectures on and making comparative studies of the Civil Services, Personnel Management and Public Administration.

(c) Establishment of cooperation between civil services training institutions of the two countries.

(d) Exchange of relevant materials.

Under the MOU, exchange of study tours and exchange visits of experts have taken place which have provided opportunity for bilateral discussions between the two countries on measures taken in the areas of organisational reforms, civil services system, personnel management and public administration. Besides, a 10-Member Chinese delegation had also visited India during 17th to 30th March, 1996 for training in the field of personnel management and public administration.

Under the Action Plan drawn up for 1997, it has inter alia been agreed that the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions will invite a Chinese delegation, composed of ten official to a training course in India for a period of two weeks. The exact date and topic will be mutually decided.

Utilization of Oil Cess Levied on Crude Oil

101. SHRI PARAMESHWR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the purpose/objective of the oil cess levied on the output of crude oil and the up-to-date accrual on account of this cess;

(b) whether the purpose/objective has been achieved; if so, in what manner and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that disbursements out of the total oil cess collected so far have been much less; if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) in what manner the undisbursed amount of the oil cess is proposed to be utilised for the laid down objectives, and by what time span?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, provides for a levy of cess of indigenous crude oil and natural gas as a duty of excise, to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the Central Government may, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf so provides, pay to the Oil Industry Development Board from time to time from out of such profits proceeds such sums of money as it may think fit for being utilised exclusively for the purposes of this Act, *viz.* for the development of oil industry, and for matters connected therewith. The net collection of the Government from cess upto 31.3.1996 was Rs. 25,955 crores approximately.

(b) Since the inception of the Act and upto March, 1996, the Oil Industry Development Board has provided a loan assistance of Rs. 6273.52 crores to the Oil Industry to supplement its resources for meeting capital and operational requirements during this period. Grants-in-Aid to the tune of Rs. 146.55 crores were also disbursed for oil sector activities upto 31.3.1996.

(c) The allocation of cess to the OIDB upto 31.3.1996 is Rs. 902.40 crores, which is around 3.45% of the net cess collection. As per Section 16 of the Oil Industry Development Act, 1974, the Central Government may pay to the Board such sums of money, as it may think fit for being utilised, as the Central Government may consider necessary.

(d) As per Section 16 of the Oil Industry Development Act, 1974, the cess is to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may, after due appropriation made by the Parliament by Law in this behalf, pay to the Board such sums of money out of the proceeds of cess as the Government may consider necessary. As per the Legislative provisions, the cess is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and a part of it may be paid to the Oil Industry Development Board. To the extent, the cess collection exceeds to sums directly paid to OIDB, it becomes a resource for financing Government expenditure in and for extending direct and indirect budgetary support to the Central Public Sector Undertakings in Petroleum, Petrochemicals and Fertilizers Sectors.

Auction of the property of L&DO by Municipal Corporation of Delhi

102. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that property worth crores of rupees belonging to the Land & Development Office (L&DO) under the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment was unauthorisedly auctioned by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c) Land near Satya Niketan colony area was